

# CONTACT

MAGAZINE FOR AND ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE 349<sup>TH</sup> AIR MOBILITY WING  
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

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YEAR-END 1999



# COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Col. Gerald A. Black  
349<sup>th</sup> AMW Commander

About this time every year, I like to use this column to reminisce about the year gone by, the major events, the people in the news, where we went and what we did. Of course, every year brings different stories, different memories, yet so often, much is the same.

If there was a conflict in the world, where victims were caught in the crossfire and in need of just about everything, the 349<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing was there.

When Mother Nature was making life miserable for folks around the globe with floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes, we were there with food, medical supplies, and more.

This year was no different, and yet it was. We had our fair share of missions, contingencies, and emergencies. We trained, worked hard, welcomed newcomers, and said good-bye to old friends, as in the past. Yet we spent the year with something else hanging over our heads, and for a change, it was something we never had to deal with before.

Y2K, the millennium bug, the great computer disaster-that-could-be took up so much energy and time

that it's hard to believe the moment of truth is over. The last time the century turned, most didn't even have calendars, let alone computers. Only a tiny fraction of people in a handful of countries could even read, let alone calculate the date. Now the world has seen the result of 12:01 a.m., Jan. 1, 2000. Some were truly terrified, and expected Armageddon; others couldn't care less. Fortunately, most of us are more practical. I believe we in the 349<sup>th</sup> took prudent steps to ensure continuity, and now we can be proud of our performance in preparing for Y2K. And as expected, the new century has begun with few glitches.

At the beginning of last year, I said even though we were starting our countdown to the new millennium with all its attendant anxiety, we still had a mission to perform. Well, we accomplished it. We performed in our usual superlative manner despite the hype, the hyperbole and general craziness. It was a rough year, but nothing this wing couldn't handle. Now in the new millennium let's get on with being the best in the business.

My thanks goes to the wing members for all their hardwork and preparation in making the 21<sup>st</sup> century problem free for the 349<sup>th</sup> AMW. I am looking forward to working with you this year, and this century! ✈



## COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT'S CORNER

by Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux  
349<sup>th</sup> AMW Command Chief Master Sergeant

America is a nation that is looked to as a world leader, and we do much to promote peace and freedom around the world. As we enter into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, look back to the National Security Act of 1947. Ever since the Air Force was established, the men and women of the Air Force have answered the call – whether in time of war, peacekeeping contingencies or humanitarian assistance. We should never forget the people who made it happen. People are the key ingredient that has made the Air Force what it is today.

Air Force reservists have participated in every major operation since the Korean War. Our daily operations have risen to levels rivaling and even exceeding those of our active duty counterparts. For more than 25 years, Air Force reservists have worked alongside their active duty counterparts as part of the "Total Force"; a concept introduced in 1973.

In recognition of this increased responsibility, the Air Force Reserve Command was designated as a separate command in February 1997. Our command remains one of the most respected and effective military organizations in the world.

One of the reasons is because no other nation relies on and uses their reserve forces like the United States. Both the active and reserve components of the Air Force train to the same standards and rely on a strong enlisted force to complete the mission.

The mission of the Air Force Reserve is to be combat ready. It is the charter of the enlisted force to ensure we are able to fulfill that mission at a moment's notice. I believe the freedom and liberty of our great country depends, in part, on we who wear stripes on our sleeves. Our core values must guide our actions as we face the challenges of the future.

The extraordinary drive and dedication of the men and women of the 349<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing will ensure our continued success into this next century. ✈



# CONTACT

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**COVER DESIGN BY  
HEIDI COUCH  
OF THE  
BASE PHOTO LAB.**

# Reservists spread holiday cheer

by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

Christmas was more special this year for many in Solano County thanks to the efforts of Air Force reservists stationed in the 349<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing.

Throughout the year, the 349<sup>th</sup> AMW often sponsored bake sales and potlucks to raise money, not for themselves, but for children. This money helped fund a humanitarian project, started by C.Z. Villanueva, a forms distribution clerk in the



**Bill Ronders and a student at Crescent Elementary.**

349<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron and Bill Ronders, a former mailroom clerk with 349<sup>th</sup>

Information Management.

They started this project 15 years ago to provide kindergarten students at Crescent Elementary School in Suisun City with a party and gifts at Christmas.

This year, Branford Elementary School in Fairfield also benefited. "The project started with one class of about

20 kids, and now we are up to six classes with around 120 kids," said Villanueva.

This year, however, they received additional help when the entire reserve wing took this project on as their



**Mr. V. with students at Crescent Elementary.**

own. Chief Master Sgt. Karen M. Redd, a flight engineer supervisor with the 70<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron and Chief Master Sgt. Victor M. Camacho, a flight chief with the 749<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron, as well as members

of the 349<sup>th</sup> Medical Group, raised money to provide food and drinks for this year's Christmas party. The 312<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron also raised enough money to buy one entire classroom Christmas teddy bears. "This has been the best year yet as far as participation from other units and the amount of money raised," said Villanueva.

The holiday spirit of Travis reservists spilled over into the local community again, this time begun by the wife of a reservist in the 70<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron.

Trish Butler had previously contacted the Solano Women's Crisis Center, an agency in Fairfield that deals with domestic violence, to see what items of food or clothing were needed. Armed with this information, Butler came up with the idea of a 70<sup>th</sup> ARS and 79<sup>th</sup> ARS Giving Tree.

In addition, the annual 349<sup>th</sup> AMW Humanitarian Project for 1999 was a food drive to benefit needy families in the local area. The project named, "S.O.A.R.," Share Our Abundant Resources, consisted of boxes located throughout the wing for collection of canned foods and nonperishable items, donated by Air Force reservists. The wing chaplains delivered the food to the Solano Food Bank. ✈

## Congress passes budget for FY00



Congress and the President have approved both the defense authorization and appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2000.

These bills represent a commitment by the Administration and Congress to improving readiness and quality of life for our military. Here are just a few of the "good news" items:

- 4.8 percent base pay raise in January 2000 – the largest in 18 years.

- Future pay raises from fiscal year 2001 through fiscal year 2006, ½ percent above – not ½ percent below as previously mandated by law.

- A long-overdue reform of our pay tables that rewards performance.

- Retirement reform — service members who entered the Air Force Aug. 1, 1986, or later, and were affected by the Military Retirement Reform Act of 1986 also known as Redux, now have a choice.

- Significant retention bonuses and special pays to properly reward those qualified airmen and officers in critical specialties, including up to 33 and 40 percent increases in authority for reenlistment and enlistment bonuses, respectively

- New authority for a Career Enlisted Flyer Incentive Pay.

- Authorization for Air Battle Managers to now receive Aviation Career Incentive Pay.

- Authority to expand Aviation Continuation Pay to aviation officers in grades below O-7 through their 25<sup>th</sup> year of aviation service. ✈



# Christmas in summer

by Maj. Anne F. Macdonald

**E**ver get tired of all the holiday hype? Ever feel as if "peace on earth, good will towards man" is nothing but an empty slogan?

Well, peace and goodwill actually do exist, and for one little Russian girl, these past two summers must have really seemed like Christmas come early.

Capt. Heather Capella wasn't trying to play Santa, and she certainly wasn't thinking of Christmas when she saw a notice in the newspaper advertising for host families to sponsor Russian children who were suffering the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Something about the ad caught her attention.

"We had never been a host family before, but I thought, why not? We had a big house, and two children, and I was a stay-at-home mom," said Capella, 349<sup>th</sup> Support Group executive officer. "I thought it would be a wonderful experience for both my children, and for our guest."

Olga, tiny, blonde and only nine years old, arrived in June of 1998. She spoke no English. She came from a small town in the Republic of Belarus where she lived with her mom and three brothers.



COURTESY PHOTOS

**Olga, a victim of Chernobyl contamination, visits America.**

Mozur

is located in an area where the soil is heavily contaminated from Chernobyl.

Although she was born after the 1986 accident, Olga, along with all the people who live in the fallout zone, especially the children, will be forever impacted

by the radioactivity.

"The Chernobyl Children's Project, which coordinates the program, was not created to 'cure' these children," said

Capella. "The goal is to provide hope and joy as well as a boost to the health of an affected child. The children are honored to be chosen, but they don't want to stay here. They miss their families, and by fall, are ready to go back home."

The host program provides all the coordination, but host families receive no funds to care for their child. The project pays airfare, but asks host families to shoulder all other expenses.

While not acutely ill, all visiting children are considered at risk medically because they live in contaminated areas, eat contaminated food and breathe contaminated air.

Most host families take their child in for an eye exam or dental treatment during their stay. Capella said that her eye doctor and dentist graciously waived their fees for Olga's exams both this year and last.

"We had such a great time that first summer, we decided to do it again this year. I also decided that I wanted to have Olga again," Capella said. "She settled in very fast this time, and it was so much easier to communicate with her. Of course, my children and Olga seemed to communicate without any trouble at all!"

Because Olga was a repeat visitor, the Capella family paid her airfare as well as her other fees. "We loved having her back," said Capella, "and this time, other host families actually called us for help and advice, and the children called to talk to Olga. She enjoyed helping the other children."

Apparently, the feeling is mutual. The Capella's plan to invite their young visitor back next summer. "It's a wonderful time for her as well as for us," said Capella. "We had a lot of fun and learned as much from her as she from us. It's a mutual blessing." And who said Christmas only happens in December? ✈



**Capt. Heather Capella with son Sean, Olga, and daughter Nicole.**

# Wrapping up events in

by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This issue of *Contact* magazine is a year-end wrap-up. Here are just a few snapshots of new commanders, awards, activities, and accomplishments during 1999 that were not previously covered in *Contact*. The year 2000 will bring about some changes in the

349th Air Mobility Wing. New commanders will take over units, more reservists will win awards but first we must recognize winners during 1999. Many reservists volunteered their time and money to help disadvantaged school children and this deserves to be recognized. We also want to recognize three reservists who spent more time

overseas performing their reserve duties than they did here at their home station. While there are probably many other activities, awards and accomplishments our reservists have performed that the *Contact* has not covered, we strive to cover as much as possible. For *Contact* submissions please call Public Affairs at (707) 424-3936.

## New Commanders...

**LT. COL. TRUMAN L. LUM, DEPUTY COMMANDER, 349<sup>TH</sup> SUPPORT GROUP**  
**MAJ. STEPHEN GIGNILLIAT, COMMANDER, 349<sup>TH</sup> CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON**  
**MAJ. GREGORY D. STATEN, COMMANDER, 349<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT CONTROL FLIGHT**  
**CAPT. CRAIG R. WELLS, COMMANDER, 349<sup>TH</sup> COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON**

## Awards and recognition...

**AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND GENERAL LEW ALLEN, JR. TROPHY AWARD**

**SENIOR MASTER SGT. KEVIN M. WADDLE**  
**349<sup>TH</sup> AIRCRAFT GENERATION SQUADRON**



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ROBIN JACKSON

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin M. Waddle, assistant superintendent, Gold Sortie Generation Flight, will represent the Air Force Reserve Command in the competition for the Gen. Lew Allen Jr., Trophy. The award, named for the former chief of staff, recognizes sustained job performance, job knowledge, proven leadership, direct sortie involvement and military qualities. Waddle has been recognized for his outstanding professional skills, knowledge and superior leadership, qualities he demonstrated most notably during his stint as Operations Superintendent, 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Support Squadron, Prince Sultan Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in 1998-1999.

**349<sup>TH</sup> AMW FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR**

**MASTER SGT. DAVID S. NEWMAN**  
**55<sup>TH</sup> AERIAL PORT SQUADRON**



# 1999 and the millennium

## Humanitarian project...

Members from the 349<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing volunteered their time to hand out Christmas teddy bears donated with money from wing functions that support this humanitarian program at Crescent and Branford Elementary Schools. See story, page 4.



COURTESY PHOTOS

### 312<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron

From left to right:  
 Technical Sgt. Fred Longoria  
 Staff Sgt. Mike D. Anspau  
 Master Sgt. Steven J. Robison  
 1st. Lt. Hugues A. Guazelli  
 Senior Airman David J. Walsh



### 349<sup>th</sup> Contingency Hospital

From left to right:  
 Elaine Morton  
 Staff Sgt. Maryirene R. Subala  
 Staff Sgt. Rafael V. Acosta (349<sup>th</sup> MDS)  
 Staff Sgt. Gracie Monahan  
 Master Sgt. Laberta D. Malone  
 Chief Master Sgt. Mike E. McGillivray



### 349<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron

From left to right:  
 Lucy G. Camacho  
 Senior Airman John D. Summers  
 Staff Sgt. Alison M. Bradshaw  
 Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux  
 Master Sgt. Patricia A. Thornton  
 Chief Master Sgt. Victor M. Camacho (749<sup>th</sup> AGS)  
 and Senior Master Sgt. Pete V. Briggs (312<sup>th</sup> AS)  
 as Santa Claus

## Unique reserve missions..



PHOTOS BY TECHNICAL SGT. KEVIN JACKSON

Technical Sgt. Robert L. Bennett (below), a member of the 45<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, spent more time performing his reserve duties as a passenger services supervisor overseas than he did here. Bennett began his life away from home at the end of 1998 at Rhein Main Air Base, Germany, and he returned again four months later during Operation Northern Watch for another four months. Bennett returned in March 1999 from the two four-month TDYs. Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Bond (left), information controller, 45<sup>th</sup> APS and Staff Sgt. Richard Diaz (no photo available), passenger processor, 45<sup>th</sup> APS also spent a total of 8 months working in the passenger terminal at Rhein Main AB, Germany. They ensure passengers are processed, briefed and that their luggage is checked and loaded onto the aircraft. They are also responsible for off-loading passengers and luggage when an aircraft arrives to the terminal.



# Memorial Affairs on front lines

Story and photos by  
Maj. Anne F. Macdonald

**T**hey are among the most highly visible people in the wing, but the most often overlooked when it comes to recognition or rewards, according to the squadron operations noncommissioned officer in charge.

They usually serve behind the scenes, but the jobs they perform often take them right out on the front lines, said their commander.

And both men agree that the members of their squadron not only perform the most mundane of daily

me in," said Senior Airman Chanda Shipp, services specialist. "Also the diversity appealed to me. Plus each one of these skills is useful in the civilian world. The mortuary is the most

difficult part, but we have lots of training, videos and role-playing to help."

"There are more physically challenging careers, but none more emotionally challenging," said Chief Master Sgt. Tony Maddux, 349<sup>th</sup> command chief master sergeant, and a former member of the squadron.

Designed as a combat support unit, the 349<sup>th</sup> MAS trains on a monthly basis in the base dining hall, fitness center and lodging office. On any given weekend, a MAS specialist might check people into billeting Friday night, serve them breakfast in the Golden Hills Saturday morning, and

help them workout Sunday afternoon. That same specialist could also conceivably be called upon to work in the mortuary at any time. The 349<sup>th</sup> is one of only two squadrons in the Air Force whose specific wartime mission is to staff port mortuaries where specialists process remains for identification, preparation and shipment to next of kin.

"That's the part that grabs everyone's attention," said 349<sup>th</sup> Commander Capt. Carl Stolnacke. "These are the folks who perform the final service the military can offer: proper preparation for interment; a perfect uniform right down to the last medal."

"You've got to have heart to do the job," said Viado. "Obviously, we



**Capt. Carl Stolnacke, commander, and Technical Sgt. Stephen Chaudhry, check out a gasoline-powered M-2 burner which supplies heat for the ovens and grills in the mobile kitchen.**

**Senior Airman Leonel Laxamana, service specialist, inspects a food transport container, designed to keep food hot as it is carried to hungry troops.**



tasks, but offer one of the toughest, most emotionally-wrenching services in the Air Force.

Who are these people, and why are they so special? They are the men and women of the 349<sup>th</sup> Memorial Affairs Squadron and their mission is to provide food, lodging, fitness and sports recreation to the living, and mortuary support to the dead. "It's an incredibly challenging career field," said Master Sgt. Rene Viado, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge. "People expect hot meals, a clean towel and place to sleep. They never give much thought to the food server, the gym guy or the desk clerk who waits on them. It's really a thankless job."

"It's the camaraderie that keeps

need special people, especially on the port mortuary side. Our folks are usually the last Air Force members to have personal contact with the families, so they must be very good with people. People skills are necessary in other parts of the career field too, which can be challenging because we have to serve everyone, often under very difficult field conditions."

"It's a demanding, mostly thankless job," said Stolnacke. "Our folks get here before you, and they'll be here long after you leave. But they wouldn't have it any other way." ✈



**Airmen 1st Class Sima Sohrabi (left) and Teresa Gomez-Vargas, services specialists, insert locks that will hold the canopy over the mobile kitchen.**



# New course offers refresher skills

by Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

Attention senior noncommissioned officers! Has it been a few years since you've attended a formal professional military education course? Do you feel a little weak on your interpersonal skills? Do you feel you need a refresher academy course? Well, look no further, there is a new class designed especially for you. It is the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development Course. While it is not offered at Travis Air Force Base, one of our own 349th Air Mobility Wing reservists is one of the facilitators.

Master Sgt. Patricia A. Thornton, flight engineer evaluator, 70th Air Refueling Squadron, is the first and only facilitator for the Senior NCO Leadership Development Course from Travis Air Force Base. Thornton represents the 349th Air Mobility Wing when she travels to the 11 bases that host the course.

This course was designed by and for reservists who need to build and refresh skills in communication, leadership trust, team coaching, negotiation, conflict resolution,

career progression, creativity and motivation. "It is a very dynamic course," says Thornton. "It is not like



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SHAYNE SEWELL

**Master Sgt. Patricia A. Thornton**

any other Air Force class you have taken," she says. The class is unit funded and only held on weekends. There are no requirements for mandays or special tour days, however, travel days are required in addition to the two-day training for a total of four days. The class is specifically designed to get the reservist off station to interact outside of their ordinary environment with peers from other bases.

"I really support it," says Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux, 349th AMW Command Chief. "It

was designed for senior noncommissioned officers who have not had the opportunity to take the NCO or Senior NCO Academy in residence. These classes allow you to participate in a classroom with your peers," said Maddux. The class is limited to four reservists per class from the 349th AMW.

The criteria to attend this course includes a minimum of two years retainability, completion of course six and/or eight, or completion of NCO Academy and/or Senior NCO Academy in residence. The individual must also meet weight control standards. Selection for the course occurs at wing level.

Those interested in being a facilitator must be recommended by their commander to attend the Leadership Development Facilitator Training Course. The two, five-day courses are located at Eglin Air Force Base and Robins AFB. Both courses must be attended. The next course will be held in June or July 2000. For those interested in attending the course or the facilitator training course contact the 349th AMW Training Office at (707) 424-2931. ➔

## Dental benefits available for reservists

by Col. Daniel G. Mazza  
349th Medical Squadron

As of Oct. 1, 1998, the Department of Defense has been offering dental insurance for all eligible reserve personnel. Working in conjunction with Humana Military Healthcare Services, the Tricare Selected Reserve Dental Program was created. Dental health is an important factor in determining readiness for deployment.

In order to provide this service to reservists at a monthly cost, the DOD is covering 60 percent of the total premium. That means the reservist only pays \$4.12 per month to maintain dental health and

military readiness.

Humana Military Healthcare Services network of participating providers have agreed to serve TSRDP members at a reduced cost, which means lower cost shares for covered services.

TSRDP provides low-cost, basic dental coverage with an annual maximum of \$1,000 per enrollment year for covered services.

If someone already has dental insurance, TSRDP is a group plan subject to usual coordination of benefits provisions. When insured by more than one plan, the two plans will work together to pay up to 100 percent of covered services.

TSRDP however, will never pay

more than the amount payable in absence of other health or dental insurance.

It also authorizes Individual Ready Reservists not currently able to enroll in the Reserve Dental Program and dependents of all reservists to enroll in the program by paying the entire premium.

For more information regarding TSRDP please contact the 349th Medical Squadron Dental Services in care of Col. Daniel G. Mazza, Director of Dental Services at (707) 424-2346.

Individuals may also contact Humana Military Healthcare Services directly at 1-800-211-3614 or at <http://www.humana-military.com>. ➔

## WEB SITE PROVIDES PAY INFORMATION

A web site explaining Jan. 1, 2000 military pay changes is available from the Department of Defense at <http://pay2000.dtic.mil/>. The site also has brief information on new retirement options; the Thrift Savings Plan that would allow service members to build a retirement nest egg; special pay and incentive pay improvements; and new rules on housing allowances, temporary lodging expenses and leave sell-back.

## STUDY SUGGESTS CHANGES TO RESERVE COMPONENT BENEFITS

**WASHINGTON** - A study recommending sweeping changes in current statutes and policies may potentially affect the health care benefits and entitlements for Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard members. The recommendations are to help ensure medical treatment, entitlements and force health protection measures for reserve component members are sufficient at a time when reservists are increasingly being called upon, and when they are increasingly going in harm's way.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen sent the report to Congress Nov. 8, 1999. "The findings of this report are compelling and important because the changed nature of today's Total Force requires a new approach to providing medical care to our reservists," he said.

"At the core of this new approach is the notion that performance of duty, not length of duty, establishes risk and exposure to harm. In other words, we will treat injury or illness, sustained in the line of duty, regardless of the duty status in which the individual is serving," Secretary Cohen said.

Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard officials said they applaud the efforts taken to ensure benefits for the reserve components are sufficient. "Members of the reserve components of the Air Force continue to play an enormous role in providing the nation with the air superiority, transport and refueling capability that make our Air Force the most formidable force in the world," said a Guard official.

Some of the study's recommendations have already been adopted by Congress and are included in the Fiscal Year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, signed into law Oct. 5, 1999. The following recommendations are in the FY00 NDAA:

- \* Allow DOD to place a reserve component member who is injured, becomes ill or contracts disease in the line of duty while performing inactive duty training, on active duty during the period of treatment for or recovery from the injury, illness or disease.

- \* Provide permanent statutory authority for the secretary of defense to waive or reduce CHAMPUS (TRICARE) annual deductible amounts (currently \$300 per family) in the case of dependents of reserve compo-

nent members ordered to active duty for less than one year in support of a contingency operation.

- \* Authorize an expanded TRICARE dental program that provides for merging the Selected Reserve Dental Program into the Family Member Dental Program, thereby ensuring a more comprehensive benefits package for reserve component members and a family member option at no cost to the government. Some of the study's other recommendations to Congress are highlighted below:

- \* Establish definitions in law or DOD regulation to describe specifically what constitutes "incurring" or "aggravating" an injury, illness or disease in the "line of duty."

- \* Allow DOD to provide medical coverage for reserve component members who become injured or ill while remaining overnight at the site of inactive duty training between successive training periods, even if they reside within a reasonable commuting distance.

- \* Conduct a study designed to determine the overall medical readiness of reserve component members in order to determine prospectively their fitness for duty as well as DOD's ability to monitor and access such information.

- \* Identify cost-effective alternatives for accomplishing medical readiness requirements that consider the use of other facilities, including those of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services, civilian contractors or private practitioners. DOD should continue to pursue ongoing efforts to establish memorandums of agreement with Veterans Affairs and Federal Occupational Health.

- \* Develop and implement a standardized dental examination and classification form that can be completed by a military or a civilian dentist and that will satisfy the DOD annual dental examination and classification requirement.

- \* Develop a more comprehensive approach to administering immunizations for the reserve components that includes maximum cost-effective use of other federal agencies and civilian facilities. Develop reserve component requirements for existing and proposed Total Force automated tracking systems to monitor the immunization readiness of reserve component members and to ensure commanders have immediate access to the health readiness status of their unit members.

- \* Ensure all reserve component members are made aware of their rights and responsibilities with respect to their medical and dental readiness and that they are held accountable for meeting retention and deployment standards. Determine the most cost-effective and efficient methods to achieve reserve component force health protection measures and provide adequate funding. The report, titled "Means of Improving the Provision of Uniform and Consistent Medical and Dental Care to Members of the Reserve Component," is part of a three-year effort to reassess reserve component health care.

## RESERVISTS AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS TO USE MILITARY LEAVE FOR IDTs

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** - Air Force reservists need to wait for instructions before using federal employee military leave to perform inactive duty for training.

The fiscal year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by the president Oct. 5, 1999, authorizes the use of military leave for IDTs. However, two months later the Air Force still awaited guidance from the Department of Defense to establish procedures for using military leave for IDTs. The new procedures take effect when the Air Force changes Air Force Instruction 36-815, Absence and Leave, which outlines when members of Air Force Reserve Command can use military leave. Besides IDT duty, federal employees accrue 15 days of military leave each fiscal year to perform active duty or active duty for training.

Air reserve technicians are entitled to 44 additional workdays of military leave in a calendar year when on active duty without pay for participation in noncombat operations outside the United States, its territories and possessions. ARTs serve in dual-status positions as full-time federal employees and reservists.

## AIR FORCE RECEIVES DOD EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REPORTS

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Air Force officials anticipate recently released reports will help the service fine tune and ensure human relations programs are on track.

Two Department of Defense reports, concerning the equal opportunity climate and career progression of minority and women officers serving on active duty, were released Nov. 23.

Air Force senior officials plan to work with the secretary of defense and the other services to explore the data for a greater understanding of how equal opportunity relates to overall mission readiness.

Officials also expect the reports to help the Air Force target equal opportunity and human relations programs to ensure the right concerns are being addressed.

"Equal opportunity and treatment are essential functions of leadership and command," said Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff. "Our policy on this subject is straightforward and based on Air Force ideals of fairness, dignity and justice in the treatment of our most important resource — our people."

The Air Force provides ongoing equal opportunity instruction beginning in basic military training and all commissioning sources, as well as at all levels of professional military education.

Further information regarding the results of the reports will be released by the Air Force as it becomes available.

## BASE LEGAL OFFICES OFFER SERVICES TO MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

Advice on personal, civil and mission-related legal matters is available from attorneys and paralegals at the office of the staff judge advocate — better known as the base legal office. Legal services are provided to active-duty members (including reservists and Guard members in active service), civilian employees stationed overseas, and their dependents. Services include:

- Wills
- Powers of attorney
- Notary service
- Advice on Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act
- Landlord-tenant issues
- Tax assistance
- Involuntary allotments
- Personal property claims

The 349<sup>th</sup> Staff Judge Advocate Office is located in Bldg. 383. For more information to obtain services from the legal office, please call (707) 424-1331.

## CONGRESS GUARANTEES VETERANS' FUNERAL HONORS

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — As America bids farewell to the veterans of World War II, Congress has taken steps to ensure they receive their ceremonial due.

By law, as of Jan. 1, 2000, all eligible veterans will be entitled to military funeral honors signifying America's gratitude for their honorable service. Upon request, two service members will fold and present the American flag to surviving family members, and a bugler will sound "Taps." If a bugler is not available, a high-quality CD will be used.

"We believe this is a very important, meaningful and moving ceremony. It's an appropriate tribute for all of our veterans," said Gail McGinn, principal director to the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Personnel Support, Families and Education. "People say the finality of 'Taps' and the presentation of the flag provide an emotional closure. The ceremony honoring the deceased veteran can be seen as an affirmation of the person's life, as well as an expression of the nation's gratitude."

Veterans' families have had a hard time obtaining funeral honors due to the growing number of requests and to concurrent military force reductions, McGinn said.

The Defense Department has tasked the Air Force to establish a website for the public to view their military funeral honors entitlements, a toll-free request line for funeral home directors to obtain funeral honors information, and an information kit containing a Military Funeral Honors Directory.

## 2000 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

	Years of Service														
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-10	1095.32	1133.84	1133.84	1133.84	1133.84	1177.36	1177.36	1242.60	1242.60	1331.52	1331.52	1420.68	1420.68	1420.68	1509.12
O-9	970.76	996.20	1017.40	1017.40	1017.40	1043.28	1043.28	1086.68	1086.68	1177.36	1177.36	1242.60	1242.60	1242.60	1331.52
O-8	879.24	905.64	927.08	927.08	927.08	996.20	996.20	1043.28	1043.28	1086.68	1133.84	1177.36	1206.40	1206.40	1206.40
O-7	730.60	780.24	780.24	780.24	815.28	815.28	862.52	862.52	905.64	996.20	1064.72	1064.72	1064.72	1064.72	1064.72
O-6	541.48	594.88	633.92	633.92	633.92	633.92	633.92	633.92	655.48	759.08	797.84	815.28	862.52	891.64	935.40
O-5	433.12	508.52	543.72	543.72	543.72	543.72	560.04	590.28	629.84	677.00	715.76	737.48	763.28	763.28	763.28
O-4	365.04	444.52	474.16	474.16	482.96	504.24	538.72	569.00	594.88	621.08	638.12	638.12	638.12	638.12	638.12
O-3	339.20	379.24	405.48	448.64	470.12	486.96	513.36	538.72	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88	551.88
O-2	295.84	323.08	388.12	401.20	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48	409.48
O-1	256.84	267.32	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08	323.08
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	448.64	470.12	486.96	513.36	538.72	560.04	560.04	560.04	560.04	560.04	560.04	560.04
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	401.20	409.48	422.48	444.52	461.52	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16	474.16
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	323.08	345.12	357.84	370.84	383.68	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20	401.20
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	402.04	411.12	420.36	430.08	439.76	448.20	471.72	490.08	517.68
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	337.12	346.88	355.96	365.20	374.88	383.40	392.84	415.92	434.40	462.28
E-7	235.44	254.16	263.48	272.76	282.08	291.04	300.36	309.76	323.72	332.92	342.16	346.60	369.92	388.32	415.92
E-6	202.52	220.76	229.92	239.68	248.72	257.68	267.12	280.88	289.72	299.04	303.60	303.60	303.60	303.60	303.60
E-5	177.68	193.40	202.80	211.64	225.56	234.80	244.00	253.08	257.68	257.68	257.68	257.68	257.68	257.68	257.68
E-4	165.72	175.04	185.36	199.64	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56	207.56
E-3	156.20	164.76	171.28	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12	178.12
E-2	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32	150.32
E-1>4	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08	134.08
E-1<4	124.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Effective Jan. 1. This chart reflects an increase of 4.8 percent over 1999 pay levels. Normally, reservists receive credit for four drill pay periods during one weekend unit training assembly. The drill pay rates will increase again on July 1 when targeted raises of up to 5.5 percent take effect.

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PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SHAYNE SEWELL